CHAPTER XLVIII: FRENZY

OI OI,
WHAT'S WITH
HIM?!

...!

HE WAS
CORNERED BY
THAT SHODDY
PLOY.

AND HAS
TOTALLY LOST
IT NOW.

HE'S LIKE AN
ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON!

THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO SLEEP!

GET UP DAMN IIIT!

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HNH.

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HAAAH.

HNH.

COME ON AND TRY IT YOU SHITTY BASTARD!

COME ON, TRY AND TURN IT AROUND!

JUST TRY AND SPURT...

YOUR BLOOD OUT!

HYAAH!

EEEK!

TEEEAT.

TEAT.

ドドド

HE'S COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THE BOXING SKILLS WHICH I TAUGHT HIM.

HOW COULD I PRAISE HIM FOR TEARING ALONG WITH HIS FISTS LIKE A WILD DOG?

I'VE HAD THIS WORRY FOR A WHILE NOW.

OVERSENSI-TIVTY CAN LEAD TO A SEVERE BACKLASH...

IT'S EASY FOR ONE'S EMOTIONS TO COLLAPSE AND BECOME UN-BALANCED...

WITH A FRAIL SPIRIT LIKE THIS, WILL HE BE ABLE TO CARRY ON FIGHTING?

HE LACKS SELF CONTROL, AND IS UNABLE TO SUPRESS HIS VIOLENT EMOTIONS.

IT'S A PITIABLE BLUFF.

HH

"

WHEN HE'S PUSHED TO HIS LIMITS, WILL HE BE ABLE TO MASTER THIS FORGETFULNESS?

WHAT NONSENSE.

YOU THINK SOMEONE TRULY STRONG WOULD FALL APART LIKE THAT?

I FIGURED YOU WERE LIKE A SWEET YOUNG LASS WHO LACKED THAT SORT OF WILD FLARE!

WOAAH, HE AIN'T TOO SHABBY!

IT'S OVER!

CESTVS IS THE VICTOR!

ENOUGH, STOP IT. IT'S YOUR WIN!

HURRY UP AND GET HIM BACK TO HIS CELL!

QUICK-LY!

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OOH...

OU...

COME AGAIN!

THAT WAS A RIGHT LAUGH BOY!

YOU SURE SHOWED HIM KID!

WHATTA SHAME!

HURRY UP AND DRAG HIM OUT OF HERE, IT'S EMBARASSING!

LOOK, HE'S CRYING!

THE APE!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

DON'T LAAAUGH!

WHAT'S SO AMUSING ABOUT A HIDEOUS MATCH LIKE THIS?!

WHAT-EVER...

JUST KEEP THINGS UP LIKE THIS.

IT WAS CESTVS' WIN. THE AUDIENCE WERE SATISFIED...

AND WE MADE A KILLING.

WHAT'S WITH THE SULLEN FACE?

HM?

AAH... I GUESS.

MASTER... DID CESTVS WIN?

...

...

MM...

HE'S INCREDI-BLE...

OH?

WOAH, HE'S REAL STRONG...

TWO WINS IN ONE DAY...

YOUR METACARPAL BONES ARE OF A SIMILAR SIZE AND SHAPE TO THOSE OF YOUR FINGERS.

HOWEVER, WHEN ONE DEALS A BLOW...

IT IS IN THEM THAT THE SHOCK IS FELT HEAVIEST.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MAY TRAIN...

YOU ALWAYS RUN THE RISK OF FRACTURING THEM.

YOU MIGHT CALL IT THE FATE A BOXER IS BURDENED WITH.

I'M SORRY...

THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO FINISH THE MATCH WITHOUT INJURY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN LUCK!

WITH SUCH RASH ACTIONS YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE PUNCHING TO BREAK YOUR OWN FISTS!

YET IT'S NOT JUST THE QUALITY OF ONE'S SKILLS WHICH IS TESTED WITHIN A MATCH!

NORMALLY I WOULD TELL YOU...

THAT THERE ARE NO FIGHTERS WHO AREN'T AFRAID IN ACTUAL BATTLE.

I WAS JUST SO SCARED MASTER.

SCARED, FRUSTRATED, ANGRY...

DON'T YOU REALISE THAT BETTER FIGHTERS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH CLUMSY, RABID TACTICS?!

IT'S A POOR SHOW TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF WHEN FACED BY DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES!

JUST GET TO SLEEP!

HEARING YOUR EXCUSES ONCE IS ENOUGH CESTVS.

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.

BUT MASTER...!

DID HE REALLY NEED TO GET SO ANGRY?

I WON A DESPERATE FIGHT, YET IT DOESN'T FEEL AS THOUGH I DID.

EVEN WITH THE WIN HE WASN'T IN THE LEAST BIT HAPPY.

ALL I HAVE IS THIS PAIN, AND HARDSHIP, AND SADNESS.

THUD

THUD

THUD

SO WHY...

IS HE ACTING LIKE THAT...?

ALL THIS...

IS JUST TO SURVIVE...

I GUESS THEY GAVE HIM THAT HISTORY TO TRY AND MAKE HIM MORE OF AN ATTRACTION.

IT AIN'T TOO UNUSUAL TO DO SO IN THIS BUSINESS.

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THE DESCENDANT OF REBELLIOUS SLAVES? HAH...

AS ALWAYS IT WAS JUST A MADE UP TALE.

HURRY UP AND FORGET ABOUT IT.

YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE EACH AND EVERY LITTLE TALE LIKE IT AS TRUE.

THE TRUTH TO THIS STRANGE STORY HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED.

JUST WHAT THE BIZARRE BOXER, CAPUA'S BLACK APE, ACTUALLY WAS WOULD REMAIN A MYSTERY TO THE END.

STILL, THE STRANGE HATRED AND FEAR WHICH HE HAD SHOWN THE BOYS WOULD REMAIN DEEPLY ENGRAVED IN CESTVS' MIND.

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW ONE WILL DO ALL THAT THEY CAN WHEN PLACED IN A TROUBLESOME SITUATION.

THOSE ODD, COWARDLY TACTICS...

BUT I'M NOT IN THE LEAST BIT SYMPATHETIC.

I'D DO THE SAME TO NOT LOSE.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY A LITTLE... I'D LIKE TO GET STRONGER...

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

WELL, DOES IT STILL HURT?

THAT'S UP TO YOU...

AND IF YOU'VE RESOLVED YOURSELF TO NO LONGER FLEE.

COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME REALLY GET STRONGER?

MAS-TER...

NO...

I'M FINE...

IF I CAN BECOME STRONGER, AND MORE SKILLED, THEN ONE DAY SURELY...!

WHILE I MAY STILL BE A BURDEN TO MASTER...

THAT SUMMIT OF HIS...

IT'S STILL SO, SO DISTANT...

IT'S SO FAR...

CHAPTER XLVIII: FRENZY - END